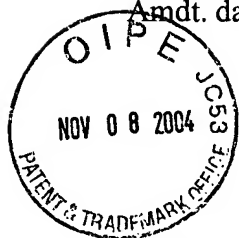


Appl. No. 10/764,103  
Amdt. dated November 5, 2004

*IFW*



Atty. Docket: 2944 (203-4027)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANTS:** Paul A. Scirica et al.

**EXAMINER:** Unassigned

**SERIAL NO.:** 10/764,103

**GROUP UNIT:** 3731

**FILED:** January 23, 2004

**DATED:** November 5, 2004

**FOR:** **SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE WITH DISSECTING TIP**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
**Mail Stop Amendment**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments:** begin on page 8 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 5, 2004.

Dated: November 5, 2004

*Christopher G. Trainor*  
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Christopher G. Trainor